

Dearest Brotheress,

Well, I guess you think its about time I wrote to you. But really, I just haven't had a chance. I was sick another week after you left and the next week I was kept busy trying to catch up on the work I missed then this last week I have been studying for exams. I took my last one today and was I glad. I made 90 on my 1st hand but haven't heard from other yet. I'm anxious to know how I came out on English.

We have a ball game tomorrow night and we have a hard team to play. You know, I was on 1st string before I got sick but since then I can't seem to get back

"in the gross". I don't know what it is
with me. If I don't find out what it is
I'll be on 4th string. You know the
team we played the night you saw us? Well,
we played them last week and they only beat
us 2 points so you can see that we were
at our worst when you saw us.

Well, I don't know how to
you how I enjoyed your being here.
I think I have two swell brothers. And
Bob, don't let the night at the cave
bother you. I had fun anyhow. Buck
and I enjoyed putting on the little
floor show, didn't we Buck? I laugh
every time I think about how silly you
acted when we got home.

I'm so proud of my pearls and cross!
I have always dreamed of a pretty string
of pearls. Every one thinks they are both
pretty and the wings - they catch every
body's eye. I have a pair on every
coat and jacket I possess. I'm sure proud
there.

Looks like I'll never get to another
dance. Every time they have had one
I had to play ball but I'd just as
soon play ball as dance with good looking
men (oh! well, so I am a liar).

I think I shall sleep all day tomorrow.
I don't have an exam so I don't have
to go to school. Wonderful, eh?

I wish I could think of something
that mother hasn't already told you.
She always tells you the news then
I have to fill up space with a lot
of hooey. Hope you don't mind.

I guess I had better stop an try to
write some more letters. I haven't answered
in so long they have really stacked
on me.

Answer soon and be ~~good~~ careful!

Love,
Jean

January 1944*

Dearest Brothers,

Well, I guess you think it's about time I wrote to you. But really, I just haven't had a chance. I was sick another week after you left and the next week I was kept busy trying to up on the work I messed then this last week I have been studying for exams. I took my last one today and was I glad. I made 90 on my shorthand but hadn't heard from others yet. I'm anxious to know how I came out on English.

We have a ball game tomorrow night and we have a hard team to play. You know I was on first string before I got sick but since then I can't seem to get back in the groove. I don't know what's wrong with me. If I don't find out what it is I'll be on 4th string. You know the team we played the night you saw us? Well, we played them last week and they only beat us 2 points so you can see that we were at our worst when you saw us.

Gee! I don't know how to tell you how I enjoyed your being here. I think I have two swell brothers. And Bob, don't let the night at the cave bother you. I had fun anyhow. Brock and I enjoyed putting on the little floor show, didn't we Brock. I laugh every time I think about how silly you acted when we got home.

I'm so proud of my pearls and cross! I have always dreamed of a pretty string of pearls. Everyone thinks they are both pretty and the wings-they catch everybody's eye. I have a pair on every coat and jacket I possess. I'm sure proud of them.

Looks like I'll never get to another dance. Every time they have had one I had to play ball but I'd just as soon play ball as dance with good looking men (Oh! well, so I am a liar).

I think I shall sleep all day tomorrow. I don't have an exam so I don't have to go to school. Wonderful eh?

I wish I could think of something that mother hasn't already told you. She always tells you the news then I have to fill up space with a lot of hooey. Hope you don't mind.

I guess I had better stop and try to write some more letters. I haven't answered any in so long they have really stacked up on me.

Answer soon and be careful.

Love, Jean

*This letter mentions that Jean was sick after Bob and Brock left. Their trip home is mentioned in the letter dated January 12, 1944.



WAR DEPARTMENT

1st Lt. Vernon

Adelphi, Idaho

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

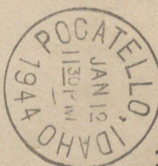
" AIRMAIL "

1st Lt. Vernon B. Hornbill

Can. 7002200

539th Bomb Squadron, A.C.S.

Muscat, California



POSTAGE
PAID



January 12, 1944
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

Hello honey. How is the "desert trouser" doing by now? I received a letter from you yesterday and one the day before and so you say "Do I mind reading your letter,"!!! Are you kidding. Believe it or not but I just love to get those letters and really look forward to them.

You know what I'm doing. I'm cheating on Uncle Sam and writing this at the office. In the first places, I would much ~~write~~ rather write work and in the second place I have a terrific head ache. Nope, ~~not~~ drinking rum but from losing my sleep. We came out to the base dance and you know how they are. We went in Freds to eat after we got in and so--- I didn't get in bed until about 2 and getting up at 6 ---Ho! Hum!! Such is the life of a working gal. Just you wait till I get my million saved up. Then I'm going to retire and stay out all nite and sleep all day. Remember I told you when I got that million I was going to go ^{to} the Hawaiiin Islands and you were going to meet me there.

You know I just cant understand whats the matter with this typewriter. It just won't behave its self. Maybe I just haven't the right touch---or something! What do you think? Don't answer that. Ha! Ha!

Gee, Brock, you really do sound lonesome so you know what I am going to do? I can't come to see you myself--at least until the weather clears up--you know how it is "the weathers bad for flying and I can't get either one of my "24" of the ground--so----I'm going to send you a friend of mine. I had to go see the postmaster and get permission to send her through the mail like I am but when I told him it was for one of the Thornhills and told him where you were he was really swell. He said to be sure and tell you that he send his sympathy to you kids way out there. Take real good care of her won't you cause she is just a fragile little thing. Oh, I almost forgot, she doesn't know a whole lot about golf but I imagine she will learn fast. Ha!Ha!. I'd

love to see your face when you read this. But then you can't say I didn't try.

Gee, have I got a surprise for you and Bob. I know this will be pretty hard to take but don't take it too seriously. You know, into everyone's life certain disappointments must come and this is just one of those things you will have to brace yourself for and take. I know it will be a terrific shock when you hear this but one of your old girl friends here in town ---

who you really admired, is being married Sunday. Yes, none other than

"g" Miles. She finally hooked herself a Lt. Poor guy, My goodness,

aving!!

ss I am going to go the basketball game tonite. Wan't to come I'd sure love to have you. No kidding, I sure do miss having you here. We really did have a lot of fun. The game is going to be in the gym, at the high school. It will be the first game I have been to this year and I'll probably just about holler myself hoarse. Remember that foot ball game.

By the way, how is Ray? (Gee, I'm a poet and I guess I don't know it).. This is getting worse and worse.....I'm ~~ina~~ one of those silly moods-----

Say, you really did all right while you were home didn't you. That sure is terrible that you didn't find your money. Do you really think that the colored girl took it?

Wanda and I went to the Memorial Hall together last Friday. We want, we saw, we conquerèd.....Anyway, we danced. No, we didn't go walking in the park, it was much to cold. Fifteen below zero is just a-too cold for me. Of course, we couldn't play any golf. No car, and its too far out to the golf course.

The bombardier came out today and I just couldn't resist this joke. I knew you would like it. "What is more beautiful than a pretty girl to behold." "Such grammar! You mean to be held!"

Brock, I surewish you could be here now if you want to see some snow.

There is about four or five inches of snow on the ground now and it is really cold. If you were here now, you would probably wear two flying suits. I think if I could find one to fit me I would probably start wearing one.

Oh, my goodness, why doesn't somebody tell me these things. I've have been so interested in writing this letter that I haven't even looked at the clock and its five o'clock. Can't you just see me walking down the highway. If I don't hurry I'm going to get left. Bye for now and write soon like to get your letters.

Love,

Ruth

Dear Mathis & all

January 12, 1944

I am rather late in writing but have been working day and night. Seems that something comes up every night so that we have to work. I only have three men working with me and they really keep us going. I don't see any hope of catching up any time soon either. I have one man going on furlough in a couple of days so ^{we} guess will really be busy.

We hadn't been paid yet, but may get part pay the 15th. It so will send you some. I got \$25.00 for trading my car from Pocahontas so we will have enough to get by on. We want to finish the payments on the car next month so we can start that bank account growing again. We are going into town day after tomorrow for a couple of days. First time we have been off post since we got back.

I got me a radio the other day & it helps a lot. It's really hard to do without one often being out to one.

How are all the sick getting along? I am beginning
to wonder. We hadn't heard from you since we got back.
Did you get the telegram of better friends. There you
have been busy the cleaning up the mess we made.
I really enjoyed it tho. Too bad you got sick for we
would have gone to beds again or somewhere. I wonder
if B. I was satisfied. I was disappointed at the
dance that night but I thought there would be
good music & a big crowd.

Is Major still at G.P. Hope so for it will
be nice for him.

I have still got a bad cold & it don't seem
to be getting any better. Guess I will have to
get something for it, or bad or I hate to. I think
Broch still has one too. They have him working
12 hrs a day now & it is pretty hard on him. His hrs
are from 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight.

Have you sent my tablet set yet? I can hardly
get by with out it.

Give my love to all,

Love
Bob & Broch

January 12, 1944

Dear Mother and all,

I am rather late in writing but have been working day and night. Seems that something comes up every night so that we have to work. I only have three men working with me and they really keep us going. I don't see any hope of catching up any time soon in this. I have one man going on furlough in a couple of days so guess we will really be busy.

We hadn't been paid yet, but may get part pay the 15th. If so will send you some. I got \$25 for driving my car from Pocatello so we will have enough to get by on. We want to finish the payments on the car next month so we can start that bank account growing again. We are going into town day after tomorrow for a couple of days. First time we have been off post since we got back.

I got me a radio the other day and it helps a lot. It's really hard to do without one after being used to one.

How are all the sick getting along? I am beginning to wonder. We hadn't heard from you since we got back. Did you get the telegram & letter I wrote. Guess you have been busy though cleaning up the mess we made. I really enjoyed it though. Too bad you got sick for we would have gone to Bud's again or somewhere. I wonder if B.J. was satisfied. I was disappointed at the dance that night but I thought there would be good music and a big crowd.

Is Major still at G.P. Hope so for it will be nice for him.

I have still got a bad cold & it don't seem to be getting any better. Guess I will have to get something for it as bad as I hate too. I think Brock still has one too. They have him working 12 hours a day now & it is pretty hard on him. Hours are from 12:00 noon to 1:00 midnight.

Have you sent my tabit set yet? I can hardly get by without it.

Give my love to all,

Love, Bob and Brock

658 West Sherman
Pocatello, Idaho



T/Sgt. Talmage B. Thornhill

Aer. 700 2200

539th Bomb Squadron, A.A.F.

Muroc,

California



February 5, 1944
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

I've shopped and shopped all through this town,
I've tried so hard, but still haven't found,
A Card to express what a nice surprise,
It was when that gift box met my eyes.

I've had a lot of elaborate gifts,
But none of them gave me the lift
Than the valentine ~~that~~ I got from you,
And oh! the letters the things they do!

So I want to express to you dear Brock,
That I feel so sorry for you at Murco,
But most of all I want to say,
That your gift to me was really O. K.

- - Hello sweet - Thanks for the sweets!

You didn't know I was a poet did you?
(Well, so you're not convinced). No feeling
though, I was so pleased when I received
the box the other day and I've sure
enjoyed it. Sweets are hard to get now days.

(O.K. go ahead + laugh - I can just see the expression on your face). Remember I always said you are a brat but I like you!

Happy Day! They aren't going to take my bread and butter away from me after all. No, they aren't going to close the Base + I'm kinda glad cause I do have a lot of fun out here. Tomorrow night is the Base Dance - Remember the last one we went to? I sure do -

Here it is blue Monday + I'm writing this letter at the office. It sure is blue - - outside I mean. I think it is going to snow -

Guess what - I bought me a new sweater - a pink one - well!

You + Bob + Ray are really having yourself a time aren't you! I sure would love to come to L.A. Well, the war cars last forever.

From the way you talk about the girls there they must really be something. Oh well, maybe they will send you back to Pac. I hope.

658 West Sherman
Pocatello, Idaho



T/Sgt. Talmage B. Thornhill

Aer. 700 2200

539th Bomb Squadron, A.A.F.

Muroc,

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February 5, 1944
Pocatello, Idaho

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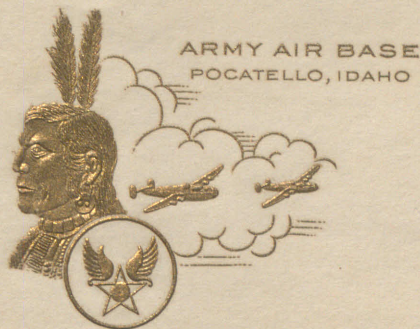
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yourself a time aren't you! I sure
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war cars last forever.

From the way you talk about the
girls there they must really be
something. Oh well, maybe they will
send you back to Pac. I hope.



ARMY AIR BASE
POCATELLO, IDAHO

I went to the Memorial Hall Friday nite & really had a good time. That place really gets a swell crowd. Tell Bob I haven't been going walking in the park with any strangers though. Its much too cold! Ha! Ha!

I haven't seen Wanda for a couple of days. She has gone to Montana to visit some of her relatives or something.

You should have been here last Sat. nite. They had the Presidents Ball in the High-School & it was some dance. I even rated roses that night.

Gee, I sure feel lazy today. Know what I'd like to do. Just curl up & go to sleep. Oh, well. Such is the life of a working gal. I slept until almost noon yesterday morning. Fine thing!

Well. Back there is a Lt. in here (Just my Boss) who doesn't seem to

see things my way. For some strange
reason he thinks I had better get to
work. Can't imagine why, Can you?

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you - Jim
O'Brien is getting married. Any-way
so I hear! Ask him about it - It's a cute
little gal from here - & she doesn't have
mocking bird legs. Ha! Ha!

Well so long for now - - Don't get
lost in that great big City - - they tell me
the golf Courses there are really large
& Complicated - - Ooh!

Bye now. Write soon.

Love,
Ruth

READ VIA VMA
CHAD. 0.12.1924

February 5, 1944
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

I've shopped and shopped all thorough this town. I've tried so hard, but still haven't found a card to express what a nice surprise it was when that gift box met my eyes. I've had a lot of elaborate gift, but none of them game me the lift than the valentine treat I got from you. And oh! The letters the things they do! So I want to express to you my dear Brock that I feel so sorry for you at Muroc, but most of all I want to say that your gift to me was really OK.

Hello sweet – thanks for the sweets! You didn't know I was a poet did you? (well, so your not convinced). No fooling though, I was so pleased when I received the box the other day and I've sure enjoyed it. Sweets are hard to get now days (OK go ahead and laugh – I can just see the expression on your face). Remember I always said you are a [unreadable] but I like you!

Happy Day! They aren't going to take my bread and butter away from me after all. No, they aren't going to close the base & I'm kinda glad cause I do have a lot of fun out here. Tomorrow Night is the Base Dance – Remember the last one we went to? I sure do –

Her it is blue Monday & I'm writing this letter at the office. It sure is blue – outside I man. I think it is going to snow.

Guess what – I bought me a new sweater – a pink one – well!

You & Bob & Ray are really having yourself a time aren't you! I sure would love to come to L.A. Well, the snow can't last forever.

From the way you tell about the girls there they must really be something. Oh well, maybe they will send you back to Poc. I hope.

Went to the Memorial Hall Friday night & really had a good time. That place really gets a swell crowd. Tell Bob I haven't been going walking in the park with any strangers though – It's much too cold! Ha! Ha!

I haven't seen Wanda for a couple of days. She has gone to Montana to visit some of her relatives or something.

You should have been here last Sat. night. They had the Presidents Ball in the High School & it was some dance. I even rated roses that night.

Gee, I sure feel lazy today. Know what I'd like to do. Just curl up & go to sleep. Oh, well, such is the life of a working gal. I slept until almost noon yesterday morning, Fine thing!

Well Brock there is a Lt. in here (just my boss) who doesn't seem to see things my way. For some strange reason he thinks I had better get to work. Can't imagine why, can you?

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you – Jim O'Brien is getting married. Anyway so I hear! Ask him about it – it's a cute little gal from here - & she doesn't have mockingbird legs. Ha! Ha!

Well, so long for now. Don't get lost in that big city, they tell me the golf courses there are really large & complicated – Ohhh!

Bye now. Write soon

Love, Ruth

658 H. Sherman
Pocatello, Idaho



T/Sgt. Talmage B. Thornhill

Asn. 7002200

539th Bomb Squadron, A.G.F.
Musoc, California



ARMY AIR BASE
POCATELLO, IDAHO

Feb. 13, 1944
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

Hello there. Remember me? Here it is Sunday afternoon and it sure is a lazy day. I got up and went to church at 9 o'clock & I thought sure I was going to freeze to death before I got home. I put my house-coat on & I haven't stuck my nose out since. After I finish this letter I'm going to clean up & go to the show.

Say, you are really doing O. K. for your-self as for dates are concerned. Tell me are the girls down there pretty? I sure hope they send you back here. They are expecting some troops in here right away cause the whole 464th pulled out last Wed. Gee, was the Base dance swell last Tuesday. We never seen so many fellows in one

evening & in one place for a long time
and I sure had a good time. I was
up coming home in a car with 12 of us.
That I mean it was crowded.

Well, beginning next Thursday I'm
going to be a lady of leisure for awhile
and am never going to sleep. I'm
going to be Thursday, Friday, Sat. & Sun.
off. ~~Happy~~ Day!

I sure got a surprise this afternoon.

My old boss called me up and wanted
me to take my old job back. I would
think coming back in town to work for
I sure hate to go back to that Mad house.
I think I'll just ride along with
the boys - besides making pretty
good money I'm having a wonderful
time.

Guess what! They have taken
\$177.00 out of my check for income
tax and Dad says I still have about
\$50.00 to pay. Fine thing! I think
I'll go back to working at the dime store.



2.
Did I tell you that my brother
Richard had a girl friend and he just
turned 15 yesterday (see what I mean -
Nothing like keeping up the Raymond
reputations (Ha! Ha!))

How is Bob? Does he have the
same fellow - huh that you have on
dates or is it just you? No, looking
we ~~are~~ had a lot of fun here didn't
we?

Oh, you remember Killa Robinson -
my girl friend that Bob took out a
couple of times? She got married
last week. It was Lt. Chivalla - she
has gone with him about three months
last week I call it! He has gone
over seas now.

Can you imagine -- I missed the Base
Memorial

Had dance Friday nite - I guess
they'll wonder what happened cause I'm
always there - I gave a party for Ella
& the girls from the office instead. I
went over to the Shangai for dinner
and then we came over here & played
Cords. For a "hen party" we had a
pretty good time.

Oh some-body put a piece in the
Bowladin about me the other day.
Said some-thing about wondering
how I was getting my cute collection
of cat-rings - the latest being a pair
of "B-24's" -

Well dear, guess I'll sign off
for now and get ready to mail this.
Ain't work too hard and write soon.
Bye now.

Love,
Ruth

Feb. 13, 1944
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

Hello there, remember me! Here it is Sunday afternoon and it sure is a lazy day. I got up and went to church at 9 o'clock & I thought sure I was going to freeze to death before I got home. I put my house coat on & I haven't stuck my nose out since. After I finish this letter I'm going to clean up & go to the show.

Say, you are really doing OK for yourself as far as dates are concerned. Tell me are the girls down there pretty? I sure hope they send you back here. They are expecting some troops in here right away cause the whole 464th pulled out last Wed. Gee, was the base dance swell last Tuesday. I've never seen so many fellows in one evening & in one place for a long time and I sure had a good time. I wound up coming home in a car with 12 of us – what I mean it was a crowd.

Well, beginning next Thursday I'm going to be a lady of leisure for a while and am I ever going to sleep. I'm going to take Thursday, Friday, Sat., & Sun. off. Happy Day!

Sure got a surprise this afternoon. My old boss called me up and wants me to take my old job back. I wouldn't mind coming back in town to work. I'd sure hate to go back to that madhouse. I think I'll just ride along with the army – besides making pretty good money I am having a wonderful time.

Guess what! They have taken \$177 out of my check for income tax and dad says I still have about \$50 to pay. Fine thing! I think I'll go back to working at the dime stores.

Did I tell you that my brother Richard has a girlfriend and he just turned 15 yesterday. See what I mean, nothing like keeping up the Raymond reputation (Ha! Ha!)

How is Bob? Does he have the same fellows luck that you have on dates or is it just you? No fooling we sure had lots of fun here didn't we?

If you remember Rilla Robinson – my girlfriend that Bob took out a couple of times? She got married last week. It was Lt. Chicolla – she has gone with him about three months. Fast work I calls it! He has gone overseas now.

Can you imagine – I missed the Memorial Hall dance Friday night – I guess they'll wonder what happened cause I'm always there. I gave a party for Rilla & the girls from the office instead. I've went over to the Shangai for dinner and then we came over here & played cards. For a "hen party" we had a pretty good time.

Oh somebody put a piece in the Bombardier about me the other day. Said something about wondering [unreadable] I was getting my cute collection of ear rings – the latest being a pair of "B-24s"

Well dear, guess I'll sign off for now and get ready to mail this. Don't work too hard and write soon.

Bye now, Love, Ruth



1. Sgt. Lalmadge B. Thornhill
53rd Bomb. Sq.
A. A. B.
Murse, Calif.

My dearest Brothers,

Well, how ~~is~~ Hollywood getting along now that you two ~~are~~ near the place. I bet they are wondering how they ever did without you, don't you? Of, course, there's no condiet in our family.

Did I tell you we got our class rings the dther day? They are so pretty. But I didn't keep mine long, Johnny got it. You know how it is. I am wearing his watchtoo and fits the only time piece around the house since Robert Brock broke the clock.

We play Bogue Chitto tonight and I hear they have a darn good team too. Wish us luck, for we'll probably need plenty of it before we get back here. We have so much fun on he trips, I hate to see the season end worse than anythig. And I am having so much fun, I hate to think about finishing school next year. I am glad now that I moved to m'comb, but I owe my friendships to basket ball. I didn't know any one ~~had~~ hardly before I went out for ball and now I know them all.

I went to the midnight show with Johnny Sat. night and Saw "Life Boat." It was good but I almost squeezed his hand off before the thing was over. Bell rang, so will finish later.

I'm sorry but this is the first chance I have had to ~~write~~ finish this darn letter. I started it mon. and here it is wed. but at least I have a little bit more news. We beat Bogue Chitto Mon. night and last night. Boy! were they rough. The upace

had to put one girl out of the game she got so
bad. I didn't do so bad last night. I only made 4 points.
I was sort of worn out from the game Mon. nite in
which I got knocked out in a mild sort of way. I
made 21 points Mon. nite. Not bad eh?

You know, I'm sort of glad G. mother went back
to Jackson - that is if they will treat her right.

Since she left mother has been so much better.
When she was here mom had us all in such
high tension we were ready to scream and run.
And when G. mother looked bad mother would go
around the house crying all day. Then G. M. worried
about mother. But now ~~they are both better off.~~
~~they are both better off.~~

We have a sub-regional tournament coming
up next week and we will most likely have to
play Tennessee so wish us luck, we'll need it.

Brook, where is that lipstick you were going
to send me from Hollywood?

Have to go now so be sweet and remember —

Love
Betty Jean

Feb 24, 1944

My dearest brothers,

(the first part of this letter is typewritten and not transcribed)

I'm sorry but this is the first chance I have had to finish this darn letter. I started it Mon. and here it is Wed. but at least I have a little bit more news. We beat Bogue Chitto Mon. night and last night. Boy! Were they rough. The referee had to put one girl out of the game she got so bad. I didn't do so hot last night. I only made 4 points. I was sort of worn out from the game Mon. Night in which I got knocked out in a weird sort of way. I made 21 pints Mon. night. Not bad eh?

You know, I'm sort of glad G. mother went back to Jackson-that is if they will treat her right. Since she left mother has been so much better. When she was her mom had us all in such high tension we were ready to scream and run. And when G. mother looked bad mother would go around the house crying all day. Then GM worried about mother. But now they are both better off.

We have a sub-regional tournament coming up next week and we will most likely have to play Fernwood so wish us luck, we'll need it.

Brock, where is that lipstick you were going to send me from Hollywood?

Have to go now so beee sweet and remember---

I love you, Betty Jean.

658 West Sherman
Pocatello, Idaho



1/Sgt. Talmage B. Thornhill
Asn. 7002200
539a Bomb Squadron, A.A.F.
Musoc,
California

March 17, 1944
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

Somewhere over the Rainbow! Remember
my 24's - Well yesterday the sun was shining,
the weather was fine for flying and I was
coming far from behind the "Hills of Idaho" to
see my favorite L. M. "My plane" & I
got off to a fine start. Then is when it
happened & I just couldn't resist. I
saw the rainbow. So, says I, if I could
get that pot of gold and bring it along with
a wonderful time we would have. So I
landed my plane & got the gold & this is
where "Yehudi" came in. Who is he - well
somebody told me once that he was the
little man that wasn't there but either
he was there or I need my eyes tested.
Anyway, he took the gold & I decided
that I better head for home - Just for proof
that I wasn't dreaming I dipped this stationery
into the rainbow and here is the proof -

No. I'm not Crazy. I work for the Quartermaster and its beginning to affect me. If I Can Dream this up when I'm wide awake & sober what would it be like if I had one of your special mixed rum. Cokes! Aahh!

Yes. You've guessed it - I'm at the office and enjoying myself immensely - writing to you. My boss is ~~in~~ here. Happy Day! Could it be that I don't like Lt's - Ah no, nothing like that.

Well here it is Friday nite & guess what. Miss Raymond isn't going to go to the dance. Think they will be able to stand the shock? - I'm going to an Operetta at the High-School - "Losalie" - It should be pretty good.

Have you ever heard of Noble Leslie & his orchestra? They played out here (at the new dance hall) last Friday nite and they are pretty good. Gee, was that place packed! Herbie Kay and his orchestra are going to play out here at the theatre next week. I guess I'll get to hear it but I sure wish they would have a "dance".

I guess I told you about having to catch the bus this week at 7:15. You should see me getting up at 6:00 a.m. Half of the time I go flying down the street with my eyes still closed. Fine thing! The other morning on the bus I saw Jimmy O'Brien & talked to him. He was leaving that day. He said he didn't see you very often. Oh, he told me about one time when you went into town together.

So you get to go into town often now. Well, "Mr. Lucky" that's really swell. Do you ever go to the Hollywood Center?

Oh, I got my self a new job. There was a fellow quit in the Horsehouse. Well this civilian fellow here in the office (the one I didn't like) was transferred to the Horsehouse & I took his job as Chief Clerk. I guess it will be a pretty good job after everything gets organized.

I got a letter from my father again yesterday and he isn't getting his mail again. (Over)

-4-

Five thing! He goes for about a month at a time
between letters.

Oh, have you ever eaten "Raviolas" - It
some-kind of a dinner ^{meats}. Well, they are having
a Raviola dinner at the Memorial Hall Sunday
and I guess I'm going. I don't know for sure
what the results will be but I'll find out -
I'll try it - - once.

Yes, our base is still just a "Ghost
City". They are expecting the troops any day
now though.

Oh Jimmy told me that they were getting
"Hoacs" in at Musoc. I don't suppose you
will like that will you -

Oh, oh, the Devil just came in. In
the form of a man with a silver bar
on his shoulder. That means trouble
for me. It's my boss & I better get to work.
Bye for now write soon.
Lane,
Ruch

March 17, 1944
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

Somewhere over the Rainbow! Remember my "24s". Well yesterday the sun was shining, the weather was fine for flying and I was coming far from behind the "Hills of Idaho" to see my favorite [unreadable]. My plane & I got off to a fine start. Then is when it happened and I just couldn't resist. I saw the rainbow. So, says I, if I could just get that pot of gold and bring it along what a wonderful time we would have. So I landed my plane & got the gold - & this is where "yehredi" came in. It is he - well some lady told me once that he was the little man that wasn't there but either e was there or I need my eyes tested. Anyway, he took the gold & I decided that I better head for home. Just for proof that I wasn't dreaming I dipped this stationary into the rainbow and here is the proof.

No, I'm not crazy. I work for the quartermaster and it's beginning to affect me. If I can dream this up when I'm wide awake & sober what would it be like if I had one of your special mixed rum cokes! Ahhh!

Yes. You've guessed it - I'm at the office and enjoying myself immensely writing to you. My boss isn't here. Happy Day! Could it be that I don't like Lts. - Ah no, nothing like that.

Well here it is Friday night & guess what - Miss Raymond isn't going to the dance. Think they will be able to stand the shock? I'm going to an operetta at the high school - "Rosalie". It should be perfectly good.

Have you ever heard of Noble Sissle and his orchestra? The played out here (at the new dance hall) last Friday night and they are pretty good. Gee, was that place packed! Herbie Kay and his orchestra are going to play out here at the theatre next week. I guess I'll get to hear it but I sure wish they would have a dance.

I guess I told you about having to catch the bus this week at 7:15. You should see me getting up at 6:00am. Half of the time I go flying down the street with my eyes still closed. Fine thing! The other morning on the bus I saw Jimmy O'Brien & talked to him. He was leaving that day. He said he didn't see you very often. Oh, he told me about one time when you went in to town together.

So, you get into town often, do you. Well, Mr. Lucky, that's really swell. Do you ever go to the Hollywood Canteen?

Oh, I got myself a new job. There was a fellow quit in the warehouse. Well, the civilian fellow here in the office (the one I didn't like) was transferred to the warehouse and I took his job as Chief Clerk. I guess it will be a pretty good job after everything gets organized. I got a letter from my father again yesterday and he isn't getting his mail again. Fine thing! He goes for about a month at a time between letters.

Oh, have you ever eaten "Raviolis. It's some kind of a dinner of meats. Well, they are having a Ravioli dinner at the Memorial Hall Sunday and I guess I'm going. I don't know for sure what the results will be but I'll find out - I'll try it once.

Yes, our base is still just a "Ghost City". They are expecting the troops any day now though.

Oh, Jimmy told me that they were getting [unreadable] in at Muroc. I don't suppose you will like that will you.

Oh, oh, the devil just came in in the form of a man with a silver bar on his shoulder. That means trouble for me. It's my boss & I better get to work. Bye for now and write soon.

Love, Ruth

Lynchburg, Va.
March 22, 1944

Dearest Family:

Jep has been saying every week that she was going to write you all and tell you about her early marriage, but it is beginning to look like she will be an old married woman before she finally gets around to it; and being the statistician of the family, I felt that sooner or later it was going to be my chore so I would get at it. Don't tell her, but I had been wanting to write anyhow, so here it is.

The bridegroom is Sgt. George S. Dittmar of the Army Air Force, stationed at Patterson Field (near Dayton), Ohio - for the duration they hope. They are to be married the first of April, funny time to be married huh, but you know "Uncle" he doesn't grant many favors and that will be the first three day leave he will have. George's sister and her husband, who live in Chicago, will be their only attendants. I do wish that I could go over for the wedding, but would take up a lot of train space and would cost a lot of money, which I feel Jep needs worse than the railroad company.

When Jep was up at Maxine's this past summer she met George who was home on leave. His home is in Ithaca. He worked with a real close friend of theirs. George is a peach of a fellow, sweet mannered and quiet, interested in everything and everybody, well read, and just an all around nice person. He has a lot of pep and drive and likes to go which suits Jep to a T. They should have a mighty full life for they like to do so many of the same things. He likes to dance, a good game of bridge, or bowling; but just as much he enjoys going to Church and has his deep side too. He has never been married, just hadn't found the One, and when he did he was bowled over. They really have it bad.

George spent his last furlough in February with us, and he and Dan got to be the best of buddies. We both got to be as fond of him as Maxine's Dell and that is no small compliment. I feel sure all of you would like him. If you didn't you would be the first not to. Everybody that he met while here ~~were~~ ^{was} very, very favorably impressed with him.

Dora Porter, across the street from us, gave a Trousseau shower for Jep last week, and you never saw the like of pretty things. I don't believe I ever went to a bridal shower where the honoree got a s many nice things - 3 perfectly beautiful gowns, a white taffeta house coat, Daniel Green satin bedroom slippers to match, -3 Dimensional Satin slips - 3 just gorgeous laced trimmed slips- a silk quilted bed jacket - 3 pair of glove silk lace trimmed panties - a grosgrain Roman striped draw string purse, man is it pretty - 3 pair of hose - dusting powder - toilet water - perfume - handkerchiefs. That is all I can think of, but it was a whole dining room table full.

It just made my heart fill to popping to know that they thought that much of her, for they could given her inexpensive things which would have served the purpose, but it looked like they all wanted her to know how very much they loved her. I had always thought Jep was too good to her friends and that they didn't appreciate it; but they changed my mind about it.

I was about to forget to tell you that George is Jep's age, and volunteered right after Pearl Harbor before the 38 limit. He looks and acts, like Jep, much younger than he is. Sort of boyish looking.

Enough about the love birds.

Dan and myself are already mourning our loss. My how we hate to see Jep leave knowing that she won't be back in a little while this time. Just 8 more days and she will be taking off.

Dan has been real sick. He has had the flu several times this winter, and man like, would start out again just as soon as he got able to be up and around the house, so week before last it knocked him down. He stayed in the hotel sick for two days, and got up out of bed and drove hom 60 miles Friday night. When he came in the front door I knew he was a mighty sick man. He just escaped pneumonia - you could hear him breathing all over the house. He is still awfully weak and the doctor said he didn't want him to even think about going to work until week after next. That will be 3 weeks at home and away from work, but he has made up his mind to do just exactly what the doctor tells him, for a change. He is feeling good now, just weak, and how Jep is spoiling him. No wonder he hates to see her go, she has got him rotten. He will have to come out of a lot of that petting and pampering after she leaves. I don't know what we would have done without her. If he had made up his mind to get sick it was well that he waited until he could have a nurse.

We got five letters from Brother Monday, wasn't that a haul. He is so good about writing. He seems to be getting along fine, considering that he has to be across the world. He said the food is good and talks as if they aren't working too hard. My but he gets homesick, and don't believe he could stand it if everyone wasn't so good about writing. Maxine and myself write him every day and one of his girl friends, and he hears from ever so many others regularly. It is surprising how many men are taking time to write the boys regularly, isn't it? His boss with Tri-State, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Downing and several other men are mighty good about writing him. I don't think he has made but one trip to Italy, but he talked as if he expected to go back over before long. I think he helped with the evacuating of the wounded from Italy from ~~months~~ what I could read between the lines.

Maxine is getting along fine, outside of being in the middle of moving. She gave up her job with Sherwin Williams the 15th. She had a ~~little~~ slight touch of shingles and her doctor said it had gotten on her nerves so bad she needed to get away. Anyhow she was working too hard at home to be holding down another job. She and Delli are ideally happy. They would have to work mighty hard, and be terribly poor not to be happy and enjoy life. Makes you feel good to be around them. I talk as if they are bad off. I didn't mean it that way, they have got a dern sight more than we have, and I haven't been hungry or cold yet, huh?

Well it is just about time to take off for the evening and I have got to get home to the "patient". All of you write when you can and know that we think of you a great deal more than we write, as you know.

Devotedly, as always,

Alle

Aunt Bess, Darling: I will write again real soon, but thought I should or Jep should write the family about her plans now that she had decided definitely. They are the happiest two people you ever saw. Jep said she is by far happier than she ever dreamed she would be, and loves George with a deeper, sweeter love than she ever did Curtis. He is simply NUTS about her. I do wish you had met him, for you would have been just like us, would have loved him, you just can't help it. He has one of the nicest and sweetest personalities I ever saw.

I am so happy that Jep has the things to get married with, for I wanted her to do it up right this time. She just has more pretty things. I finished paying for her new fur coat, it is so pretty, and George said out there they wear them until up in May, and gave her \$50 for a wedding present, and Brother gave her \$50 and Dan is going to give her something nice. They need the money now we feel like more than they ever will again, so we thought it would make them feel easier to have a little nest egg to fall back on. Jep is going to wear a grey lace trimmed crepe, with purple hat, trimmed with lavender and pink roses. Might not sound pretty but it looks lovely. She will wear the black coat, black patent slippers, and white gloves. Ought to look right pretty,

huh? I never thought I would live to see the day that Jep was so completely happy. My it makes my heart sing. How I wish Mother could see her and George together. Aunt Bess he is so tender towards her, and thinks she is so pretty, and how it tickles him because she is so prissy about her dressing. If they don't have an exceptionally happy marriage, I sure miss my guess. Let us just hope she is as happy as Dell and Mac and Dan and me. I ask no more.

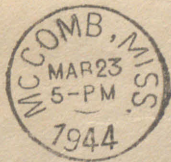
By the way, the other night, Dan said how is Aunt Bess. I told him that I hadn't heard from you since the last letter he read. He said I think you had bet er write and see how she is getting along, for she might be sick again. He dearly loves you, Aunt Bess. He loved Aunt Dora and Aunt Lena too, thought an awful lot of them, but you are his pet, and he thinks you are more like Mother, and he just adored Mother.

I hope Major is still close enough to get to see Ava real often. I am so happy that she has had a chance to get out and have some fun, for she has been tied down right close for the past 5 years and not any too well either, it will do her good to have some real, honest to goodness fun.

Surely hope you are feeling 100% better and are all right for the year now.

Give my love to the boys and Betty Gene too and write real soon. Betty Gene I am so proud of you. You must be some girl. I am dying to see you and be with you some.

Love and kisses
Alle



*T/Sgt. Talmadge B. Thornhill
539th Bomb Sq.*

A. A. B.

Muroc

Calif.

My Dearest Brothere,

I have finished my lesson so I will type you a few lines while waiting for the bell. I am so hungry I don't know what to do and it is 15 minutes till the bell and then I have to ride a mile and a half on my bike, and it sort of works up an appetite. Did I tell you that Aunt Hazel is letting me keep her bike to ride to school on? It sure is a help. I would n never make it home and back for lunch in an hour, I almost don't make it as it is.

Bob, you said in your last letter that you would send me a pair of wings next pay-day, well don't spend your money cause I have those other wings and I have a pair on every coat I have and get plenty complements on them. With them on my coats I hardly ever need anything else on, and if I have the occasion to wear them I will just borrow mothers, she won't mind, and you need to be saving your money for when she comes out and have a swell time, for you both (that is all three of you) deserve it. She is thrilled to death and me too.

We are having stunt night Fri. night and I am supposed to be the preacher in a manless wedding. Do you whink I will make a good one? I sure will foll silly---well! We are having to practice tonight and every night this week so I won't have time for anything else.m

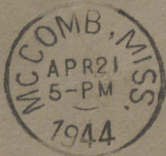
Oh !let me tell you, I had the best time Sun. A girl friend of mine spent the night with me and that afternoon we went to Dixie Springs and went boat riding with Uncle Hobson and had the most fun ! Before he got there we went over in the woods and got a lot of henny-suckle and dog-wood and really enjoyed the warm weather. But I made Johnny mad at me. I went to the mid-night show with him Sat, night and he said something about what we could do Sun. and + lied and said that I thought mother was going to take Sybil and I with her to Louisiana. See, I decided we could have more fun, just she and I so I told him that so he wouldn't come around to the house. Well, he passed there and saw mother sitting on the front porch so he asked where I was. "ell he was told that Buck and Tom were at Dixie Springs with some girls and he got it in his head that we were the girls. He came back though that night and + made him forget all about it and he isn't mad any more. Mother was madder than he was though. She says she isn't going to let me do my boy freinds dirty like she let Ava Ha !

I don't know any thing else to write so I will close for now.

Love you,

Betty Jean

Butts, Miss



1/Lt. James H. Thornhill
539 th Barnh Sq.

A. A. B.

Maroc, Calif.

Dearest Brothers,

*I wrote this Mon. but
sort of forgot to mail it
so here*

I don't have to do anything but practice this period so
I will write to you as I think that would be a good thg to practice.

Well mother will soon be on her way, I guess. She has her
reservations and everything. She is in Jackson this week getting
her clothes ready. I bought her three pair of hose Sat. for a little
going away present and had to tell her I had them, for she was going
to buy a lot more in Jackson so I told her so she wouldn't go and
get a lot more.

Just think! we have only six more weeks of school and that will
be all. I can hardly wait. I am sort of tired of school now. I do
hope I get to work this summer though. I really want to so I can get
myself a lot of clothes and then I won't work my senior year, just have
a darn good time. I am having fun now but I neve get to go anywhere
for the week-end cause I work. Like I want to spend the week-end with
Doris, I can't because I don't get off till 7:30 and then there 's no
bus going to Liberty.

I don't know anything to write except that I went to the shoe
S at. night with Johnny and saw It Happened Tomorrow. I was good
but it was very odd. I liked it though. Sun. afternoon I went over
to Sybil's house where we made icedream. It was really good. after
that we were starting to go to the drugstore and we saw W. F. and he
was going to Dixie Springs to get some of the spring water for his
grandfather and he asked us to ride up there with him so we did. We
got back just in time to go to B.Y.P.U. After that we (six girls)
went to the drug store and then to one of the girl's houses. We decided
we were going to organize a club. No one will know the name of it or
the motto or anything about it. We will meet every two weeks and have
dues and rules and everything like a real club. We intend to have the

first meeting Sat. night at Jo's house and her mother is going to give us a spaghetti and meat ball supper and we are all going to the midnight show together. More fun ! I really do think it will be alot of fun if we stick to it and do it right, don't you? We have to have something to do besides go to the drugstore and gossip

Well I guess thats about all that I know so I will close and get ready for the speed test I have to take.

Love you,

Betty Jean

P.S. Did I tell you Johnny gave me a two-pound box of candy for Easter? yum !yum Y

658 West Sherman
Pocatello, Idaho



Sgt Talmage B. Thornhill

Asn. 7002200

Sgt. H. 421st B. Unit

Musac,

California

mail

April 28, 1944
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

Stay out here in Idaho -- on this lonely
prairie -- sit a place called an Air Field.
In one corner of the field sits a little "shack"
that they didn't know what to do with so they called
it "P.M." -- And that's where I wound up -- I really
get unwound in a hurry when I get here though.
Just think when I have to behave myself all
day how good I feel at 5 o'clock!

You are here now though -- Only
about 1000 people can come in town
at night and should see the Friday
nite dances. Oh well, the girls say they
don't mind dancing with each other.

I guess what I met a friend of yours the
other day -- Bill Heideman -- Do you remember
him? He was over 23 or 24 years & said
that you & Bob & Ray were together at Hiern
Field. He sure was tickled when I told
him about you. I gave him your address
and he is going to write to you. He is

married man and his wife is here with him.
About my coming to California. Well, I
would really love to come - - no joking. I
know we would have a wonderful time.
But, right now, I can't get any leave. I'm
learning Sgt. Leonard's job and he is being
transferred. If everything turns out the way
it should, and I'm a good little kid, & behave
myself, it will mean a better rating. Isn't
that wonderful - Then I would come down
& celebrate. Do you think there would be a
chance of your coming up? Gee, I hope
so cause we could really have a wonderful
time. Jimmy Lunsford and his orchestra
are going to play at the new dance hall next
week - Gee, I wish we could go together.

Here it is another Friday night and
another dance. I have been arguing with
myself all day about it. My sensible half
says "Stay home" & my foolish half says "Go on
& Go." - Which one do you think will win?

It has been fun doing that is real
interesting. Played any more golf (the
real thing I mean)!

I sure wish that the weather here would
turn nice and warm so I could go hiking

riding. Gee, was I ambitious last night. I walked home from over by the Green Lantern. He went over there to a ladies house & dinner. Gee, did I eat!

Know what I'd like right now. a good thick milk-shake from Joys - yes, pineapple if you please!

I haven't seen Monday for a couple of days. We were at the Base dance together Tuesday nite. They moved a big bunch of troops out of here again Tuesday. Gee, I wish they would send you back here. Remember the night you ate too many marshmallows?"

Oh, some excitement in the neighborhood yesterday. Know that bridge just below the school - well, some lady decided to "Just Get Away From It All" - so she went swimming. The only thing wrong was she took poison first - They haven't found her body yet - they have been down on the river all day yesterday & today -

Oh, another thing that Col. Eaton has down our here that the boys just love - - he has been making them go on bivouac. A lot of them went the first of the week & the rest of them go tomorrow. They are staying at Midway!

I sure think that's silly, don't you?

Did I tell you that I got to see a B 29
plane. There was one landed here on
the field and we went up on the line to see it -
Gee, are they ever big - Do they still keep
you pretty busy?

Well, Mac, I guess that I had better hurry
up if I don't ^{want} to come home - Not that I mind -
not much! I sure wish I could ^{look} out &
see that little Redford coming down the road -
Bye the way, how is it? Of course you know
what I'd do don't you? I'd just run out &
jump in and away we'd go -

Bye for now and write soon. Tell
Bob "Hello" for me - gee, I hope I can come.

With

April 28, 1944
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

Way out here in Idaho – on this lonely prairie – sits a place called an air field. In one corner of the field sits a little shack that they didn't know what to do with so they called it QM – and that's where I wound up. I really get unwound in a hurry when I get her though. Just think when I have to behave myself all day how good I feel at 5 o'clock!

You [damage] here now though. Only about 10 [damage] can come in town at night [damage] should see the Friday night dances. Oh well, the girls say they don't mind dancing with each other.

Guess what – I met a friend of ours the other day – Bill Weideman. Do you remember him? He was overseas three years & said that you & Bob & Ray were together at Hickam field. He sure was tickled when I told him about you. I gave him your address and he is going to write you. He is married now and his wife is here with him.

About my coming to California. Well, I would really love to come – no fooling. I know we would have a wonderful time, but right now I can't get any leave. I'm learning Sgt. Leonard's job and he is being transferred. If everything turns out the way it should and I am a good little kid & behave myself it will mean a better rating. Isn't that wonderful. Then I would come down & celebrate. Do you think there would be a chance of your coming up? Gee, I hope so cause we could really have a wonderful time. Jimmy Lunceford and his orchestra are going to play at the new [damage] next week. Gee, I wish we could go together.

Here it is another Friday night and another dance. I have been arguing with myself all day about it. My sensible half says "stay home" and my foolish half says "go on and go". Which one do you think will win?

What have you been doing that is real interesting. Played any more golf (the real thing I mean).

I sure wish that the weather here would turn nice and warm so I could go bicycle riding. Ge, was I ambitious last night. I walked home from over by the Green Lantern. We went over there to a lady's house to dinner. Gee, did I eat!

Know what I'd like right now. A good thick milk shake from Jay's – yes, pineapple if you please!

I haven't seen Wanda for a couple of days. We were at the base dance together Tuesday night. They moved a big bunch of troops out of here again Tuesday. Gee, I wish they would send you back here. Remember the night you ate too many marshmallows?

I had some excitement in the neighborhood yes [damage] know that bridge just below the school [damage] cross the river. Well, some lady decided to "just get away

from it all" so she went swimming. The only thing wrong was she took poison first. They found her body yet – they have been down on the river all day yesterday & today.

Oh, another thing that Col. Eaton has done out here that the boys just love – he has been making them go on bivouac. A lot of them went the first of the week & the rest of them go tomorrow. They are staying at Midway! I sure think that's silly, don't you?

Did I tell you that I got to see a B29 plane. There was one landed here on the field and we went up on the line to see it. Gee, are they big. Do they still keep you pretty busy?

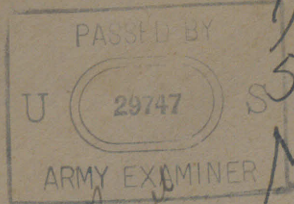
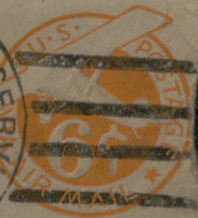
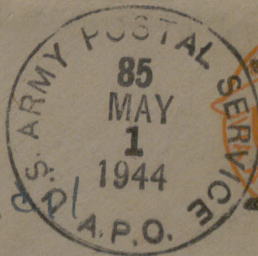
Well Doc, I guess that I had better hurry up if I don't want to walk home. Not that I'd mind – not much! Sure wish I could look out and see the little Redford coming down the road. By the way, how is it? Of course you know what I'd do, don't you? I'd just run over and jump in and away we'd go.

Bye for now and write soon. Tell Bob hello for me. Gee, I hope you can come.

[damage]

Sgt. John O. McClendon 34276398
Co. A. 310th Med. Bn. A.P.O. 85-
070 PM. N.Y. N.Y.

Air-mail



Handwritten signature
67

T/Sgt. James B. Thornhill
539th SQ. (H) A.A.F.
Muroc, Calif.

April 30th
5:30pm. Italy

Dear Bob + Brock:

I received your nice long letter last night and I can't begin to tell you how glad I was to hear from u'all again. It was a long time between letters. Say how about us just going ahead and write each other every so often, and not wait until we receive a letter. It takes so damn long for a letter to go or come. It took your letter one month to get here. I promise u'all I will write more often in the future. (that is if I can find some time to call my own, for I am in combat now)

"Boy" you can really have a time in Calif., can't you? I enjoyed every minute I was out there. I wish to hell I could be out there with u'all now. But instead I am stuck in this ass-hole of a place with nothing but wops. I haven't had but one piece of cunt since I left the states. And that was a French gal in Africa. I haven't had much chance to find any here. I have only been to one little town since I came to Italy, and it was in ruins. I think tho that when we get a rest period we will be able to go to town on pass. I hope so for I sho am horny.

That is wonderful that Aunt Bess is coming out to visit u'all. I know she will have the time of her life. I am so happy for her. There were never two sweeter persons in this world than my mother and my Aunt Bess. They should have been twins. Your mother has always been my favorite Aunt. She writes me often and I enjoy her letters so much, for they are always a newsy and sweet.

They say that grandma is breaking mighty fast and that she is getting blind and her mind is

getting messed up. All the folks talk as if they expect her to pass away almost anytime. I wish it were possible for me to get back to see her before that time comes. But when you are in the army you miss out on a lot of things, don't you?

Well I am right in here where the real McCoy is going. The big guns are shooting and shells busting all around us day and nite. At first I was jumpy, but after a few days of it I got use to them. And now they don't bother me. I can tell by the sound of them when they come whizzing by, whether they are enemy or ours.

We have had a few come close, but so far none have hurt any of our personnel. Here's hoping our luck hold out.

We have a pretty good setup here. Me and the boys in my platoon live upstairs in a big room of an old station house. Half of my boys are always out on duty, so therefore the other half and myself have plenty of room. We have tables, chairs, pretty girls' pictures stuck all over the walls. I found me a pair of bedsprings and have me a good bed rigged up. This is the first time I have had my ass off the hard ground since I came overseas. And boy it sure does feel good. I sleep up a storm.

I am liaison sgt. for a collecting company, so no doubt you know what my job is. It gets pretty rough sometimes. Right now things are running very smooth.

Well boys I guess this is about all for now so will say so long for now. Thanks for the nice long letter. Let's be having another one real soon. Bye now.

Your Cousin,
John

April 30, 1944
Italy

Dear Bob & Brock,

I received your nice long letter last night and can't begin to tell you how glad I was to hear from y'all again. It was a long time between letters. Say how about us just going ahead and write each other every so often and not wait until we receive a letter. It takes so darn long for a letter to go or come. It took your letter one month to get here. I promise y'all I will write more often in the future (that is if I can find some time to call my own, for I am in combat now)

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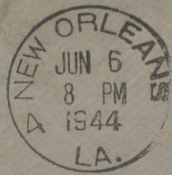
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Your cousin, John



Tech. Sgt. Talmore Brock Threshill
Sgt H. 421st B. U.
Murro
California
Brock Threshill

172 Brooklyn Ave -
New Orleans, La - 20

Dearest Brock & Bob,

I guess you'll really be surprised to receive this letter. I've written to Betty Jean to send your address but she always forgets to put it in. She spent last week-end with me, sure did enjoy her visit. Almost like old times.

I know you two have really enjoyed having Aunt Bessie out with you. She wrote me a card and said she was having a wonderful time. Eva wrote me a letter to meet Aunt Bessie here in New Orleans & stay with her while she was waiting for her next train out. But, we were in Baton Rouge spending the weekend with James Owens & his wife.

Jo. came down today to spend the summer with us & work until school starts. Jo. won't get to finish school. He will be 18 in Jan. He will only get a half credit on all his subjects. But he said he was going to Christmas & he could play foot ball. He's on first team, he plays tackle -

Did you know I'll be married one year
this month (the 19) its really doesn't seem
thats long.

Jack has a better job now. He works
for the Navy. Makes more + can put in
more time. I suppose you all will be
having a few laughs before long?

As there's nothing new with us
I'll close for this time hoping to hear
from you real soon.

Lots of Love
Betty.

My Address:

Mrs. Jack Walker
172 Brooklyn Ave
New Orleans

La. June 20 -

June 6, 1944

Dearest Brock & Bob,

I guess you'll really be surprised to receive this letter. I've written to Betty Jean to send you address's but she always forgets to put it in. She spent last weekend with me. Sure did enjoy her visit. Almost like old times.

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Jo came down today to spend the summer with us & work until school starts. Jo won't get to finish school. He will be 18 in Jan. He will only get a half credit on all his subjects. But he said he was going to Christmas so he could play football. He's on first team, he plays tackle.

Did you know I'll be married one year this month (the 19th). It really doesn't seem that long.

Jack has a better job now. He works for the Navy. Makes more & can put in more time. I suppose you all will be having a furlough before long?

As there's nothing new with us I'll close for this time. Hoping to hear from you real soon.

Lots of Love,

Betty

2667 Tantalus Drive, Honolulu.

June 7, 1944

Dear Mrs. Thornhill;

I was glad to hear that you have been visiting the boys in California. What a joy for them as well as for you.

I got a nice letter from Brock much to my surprise, and when he told me that you were there I laughed and told Barbara, "I guess that explains the letter. I'll bet she prodded him." I realize that it is hard for these boys to sit down and write letters. They think they have nothing interesting to write about, but they really have. How we laughed at Brock's account of how Bob drove off and left him at the service station, and how he had to thumb his way back.

I am writing this down at Queen's Hospital where Mr. Wall is confined with a heart attack in a room almost opposite to the one I occupied when I was here with a fractured head. He has been here two weeks ago today, and I am glad to say, has taken a turn for the better, after a hard time of suffering last week. After another week or so, we hope to take him home, so the cool gentle breezes of Tantalus Drive, coming direct from Mt. Tantalus, instead of blowing over many other houses and factories, would be more healing than the air down here.

My son, the one who is a lieutenant commander in

The Navy, is moving in with us. He is giving up all private practice at Eva Plantation, as his Navy work keeps him busy. They are lucky to have our place to move into, as there are no houses, apartments or even rooms to be had in town. Thousands more could be used if it were possible to find them.

I am giving to the use of Garton and his family, three bedrooms and a bathroom. It is quite separate from our part of the house and includes the rooms where the boys used to sleep.

We will enjoy having my two grandchildren

2667 Tantalus Drive
Hololulu
June 7, 1944

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I got a nice letter from Brock much to my surprise, and when he told me that you were there I laughed and told Barbara, "I guess that explains the letter. I'll bet she prodded him". I realize that it is hard for these boys to sit down and write letters. They think they have nothing interesting to write about, but hey really have. How we laughed at Brocks account of how Bob drove off and left him at the service station, and how he had to thumb his way back.

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We will enjoy having my two grandchildren.

N. Stephenson
Box 203
Calexico, Calif.



Sgt. J. B. Thornhill
Squadron H, 421st Base Unit
A. A. B.
Murco, Calif.

Tuesday night
August 22, 1944

Dearest Brock,

This letter leaves
me in Calexico. One never
knows where my next
letter will be mailed
from.

Had a letter from
you while we were
in Boulevard. The stack
is slowly growing —
that's all now. ✓

Bee & I took her
Aunt Luca's car & went
to San Diego Saturday to
~~see~~ her brother Jim.
Came back to Boulevard

Saturday afternoon
picked up our bags
(suit-cases) & came on
here.

Grace & Joe took
us to Mepicali Sat.

night. Got a little bit
gay — ate tacos then
came home. The dives
stay open till about
5 o'clock (A.M.).

Sunday night we
went out with Bee's
uncle & cousin to haul
hay. Should've seen us
in blue jeans riding
on top of the hay — six
layers high. We
were famous as all

get out.

Dee drove the truck
12 hrs. last night
for her Dad in the
hay fields. She's
working again to-night.

I worked in the
service station today.
Grace or the kids
usually run it - but
now I'm the grease-
monkey. It's really
big old fun.

All in all we're
having a gay old time.

Guess you know
I'm missing one Brock
Thornhill. Will be
2 weeks tomorrow.

In a few days Bee's Uncle Joe is going to Visalia to get some of their belongings — so-o-o Bee & I are going with him as far as Fresno. Will stay about 2 days, then he'll pick us up on his way back.

Had a letter from Mother. Says the next time we come home — you boys will have to stay at our place a few days. O.K.?? (I'm taking it for granted that you'll let us go along.).

While we were in
Boulevard - the last of
the week - I had a couple
of letters come here &
Grace - knowing me
only by "Rebel" - sent
them back. Thought
maybe one might have
been from you. If so,
just be sending it back
'cause now they know
my real name.

Guess we'll be here
for quite a while yet.
They're treating us
pretty swell. We snowed
them a little bit.

I wrote you a long
letter last night but it

went in the waste basket.
After reading it over,
I decided it was
entirely the wrong thing.

You're sort of a hard
person to write to you
know. I guess maybe
it's because I've never
known you to have a
serious thought.

I appear as such
myself - but once in
a while I get a little
"moody" & like to cry on
some one's shoulder -
literally speaking. I was
in that mood last night.
Guess I'll be on
my way now.

.. Hello to Bob - the
 damn rebel. If
 he gives you any
 trouble - just let
 me know and I'll
 fix him.

Bee will write to
 him when she gets a
 little time. She slept
 all day to-day.

Love to you,

Nina

P.F. address (for quicker
 delivery)

P.O. Box 203
 Calexico, Calif.

August 22, 1944
N. Stephenson
Box 203
Calexico, Calif

Dearest Brock,

This letter leaves me in Calexico. One never knows here my next letter will be mailed from.

Had a letter from you while we were in Boulevard. The stack is lowly growing- That's 3 now.

Bee & I took her Aunt Lura's car & went to San Diego Saturday to see her brother Jim. Came back to Boulevard Saturday afternoon picked up our bags (suitcases) & came on here.

Grace & Joe took us to Mexicali Sat. night. Got a little bit gay-ate tacos then came home. The dives stay open till about 5 o'clock (am).

Sunday night we went out with Bee's uncle & cousin to haul hay. Should've seen us in blue jeans riding on top of the hay-six layers high. We were glamorous as all get out.

Bee drove the truck 12 hrs last night for her dad in the hay fields. She's working again tonight.

I worked in the service station today. Grace or the kids usually run it-but now I'm the grease monkey. It's really big old fun.

All in all we're having a gay old time.

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You're sort of a hard person to write to you know. I guess maybe it's because I've never known out ha have a serious thought.

I appear as such myself – but once in a while I get a little “moody” & like to cry on someone's shoulder – literally speaking. I was in that mood last night. Guess I'll be on my way now.

Hello to Bob – the “damn rebel”. If he gives you any trouble - just let me know and I'll fix him.

Bee will write to him when she gets a little time. She slept all day today.

Love to you, Nina

PS address (for quicker delivery)

PO Box 203

Calexico, Calif.

W. Stephenson
Box 203
Calexico, Calif.



T/Sgt. J. B. Thornhill
Squadron H, 421st Base Unit
Army Air Base
Murco, California

Wed., Aug. 30, '44

Hi Darlin'

Received your letter
written Aug. 21st yesterday.
It was forwarded to me
from Boulevard. So
you weren't lying about
having written 2 letters.

Bob called Bee yesterday.
She was sick in bed but
got up to talk to him.

She's been feeling very low.
I took her to the doctor
& he gave her a "hippo"
& some pills. She's a
bit better today.

We're planning to
leave here tomorrow noon.

Will take the train to
L.A. & be there about
4 days.

If you can get a pass,
I'll probably be seeing
you before you receive
this letter.

I miss you pretty
much you know. — More
than I like to admit.

Love to you,

Nina

P.S. I liked your letter.

Wed, Aug. 30, '44

Hi Darlin' (Brock)

Received your letter written Aug. 21st yesterday. It was forwarded to me from Boulevard. So you weren't lying about having written 2 letters.

Bob called Bee yesterday. She was sick in bed but hot up to talk to him. She's been feeling very low. I took her to the doctor & he gave her a hypo & some pills. She's a bit better today.

We're planning to leave here tomorrow noon. We'll take the train to L.A. & be there about 4 days.

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Love to you,

Nina

PS I liked your letter.

ROBINSON AVIATION, INC.

30 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

SUCCESSOR TO C. S. ROBINSON AERIAL SURVEYS, ITHACA, N. Y.

Western Division

77 Hollywood Blvd.

Rock

Tuesday, 10-24-44

Broch darling,

Received your letter yesterday.
Permit me to say that I love you more.
To be truthful, I didn't think it
would matter to you — my dating
someone else. I see I was wrong, darling.
I won't happen again.

Forever yours,

Nina.

Tuesday 10-24-44

Brock darling,

I received you letter yesterday. Permit me to say that I love you more.

To be truthful, I didn't think it would matte to you – my dating someone else. I see I was wrong darling. It won't happen again.

Forever yours,

Nina

2667 Santalus Drive, Honolulu
October 26, 1944

Air
Mail

Dear Mrs. Thornhill:

I have started to write to you many times but something always seemed to interrupt me and they were never mailed. I think I saw one of them around yesterday. Mr. Hall's long illness and then my own break down changed all my plans.

We did so enjoy Major Pope's visits but we hated to see him go further south. I can imagine how you all miss him. We were regretful that he was such a long time letting us know he was in town especially as the Cadys' where he was so often is only about two or three minutes drive from here.

Naughty Bob broke down and wrote me another letter recently the first since July last year, but Brock has been better. Poor Bob says he would rather do anything in the world than write a letter, but he writes a very good letter when he does. I do not want letter writing to be a bore to them and I think I will write to them and release them from the burden. I will know (or hope) that they think of us sometimes.

It looks as though Barbara will make her home on the mainland, and I

think when she goes, I shall go also if I can get the estate finished, so maybe we shall meet some day.

Air
Mail

We were much interested in Majors' description of the place you all are running. I think it must be very interesting work, and will give you something to think about while he is gone.

I want to thank you for your expression of sympathy in the loss of Mr. Wall. It is very hard to get re-adjusted, and that is one reason I want to go up with Barbara.

I have been twelve days in the hospital recently. It was sort of a collapse after Mr. Wall's passing but they found me suffering from an acute attack of sinus trouble, and they sent it away by giving me hypodermics of the marvelous new medicine Penicillin - Within twenty four hours all symptoms had disappeared - They gave them to me every three hours night and day until I had had twenty-five. I feel like a new born person.

I have thirty nine more letters to write so must close hoping every one is well.

Sincerely

Edith D. Wall

2667 Tantalus Drive
Honolulu
October 25, 1944

Dear Mrs. Thornhill,

I have started to write to you many times but something always seemed to interrupt me and they were never mailed. I think I saw one of them around yesterday. Mr. Wall's long illness and then my own breakdown changed all my plans.

We did so enjoy Major Pope's visits but we hated to see him go further south. I can imagine how you all miss him. We were regretful that he was such a long time letting us know he was in town especially as the Cady's where he was so often is only about two or three minutes' drive from here.

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I have thirty nine more letters to write so must close hoping everyone is well.

Sincerely, Edith D Wall

2661

Honolulu HI, Hawaii



T/Sgt. Taimage Brock Thornhill
Sgt. Iron H, 421st Base Unit
Marine
California

Honolulu 21, T.H.
December 6, 1944

Dear Brock:

Thank you for your nice letter and good wishes.

Yes, I am really engaged to the most wonderful fellow there is. Mel is so thoughtful and kind and we enjoy the same things in life. The fellows out at Hickam tease me and call me "Mrs. Hickups" because his name is Hickok.

Are you terribly far from El Centro? Of course you

will be invited, you and ^{Bob} Brook, if you can make it. I don't know just what our plans will be yet. Mel wants me to come up and there is a possibility of an apartment by January, but I don't know how long it will take me to wait for my passage and get ready.

What do you mean, you have tried to fall in love because you wanted to know what it felt like? Let me tell you something: You don't "try" to fall in love - it isn't anything you force yourself to do and most certainly not just

to find out what it is like!
It is something that just happens
because you love the person and
what he or she stands for and you
want to be a partner to stand be-
side that person always because
you love that person more than
anything else in the world.

I have dance classes up
at Lolani High School twice a
week and they want me to give
a third. I've had an offer to
teach 100 students three times a
week at McKinley High after
December, but I may be preparing
to leave so I don't know.

How nice that you and Bob are working in your spare time. What kind of work do you do? You must have fun with your car.

Mel works in town in El Centro every evening after work in a Typewriter store repairing machines. He is earning extra money for our home or for a little bank account when we are married.

I'm glad Ava got the message. I haven't heard from her.

How is your Mother? Please give her my love when you write.

I am now down at Church at our Service Center working in

the ²²ie, so please excuse the
different paper.

We have enjoyed a fire in
our fireplace lately, and it is very
cozy.

Now about a letter from Bob?
The bum hasn't written, you know.
You speak for him as well as
yourself, but that won't do.
Now about speaking for yourself,
John?

Are you going home for
Christmas this year? I hope all
of you have a grand Christmas.

My Aloha to you and
Bob,
Barbara

Honolulu, HI
December 6, 1944

Dear Brock,

Thank you for your nice letter and good wishes.

Yes, I really am engaged to the most wonderful fellow there is. Mel is so thoughtful and kind and we enjoy the same things in life. The fellows our at Hickam tease me and call me "Mrs. Hiccups" because his last name is Hickok.

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We have enjoyed a fire in our fireplace lately, and it is very cozy.

How about a letter from Bob? The bum hasn't written, you know. You speak for him as well as yourself, but that won't do. How about speaking for yourself, John?

Are you going home fro Christmas this year? I hope all of you have a grand Christmas.

My aloha to you and Bob, Barbara



ENGAGEMENT TOLD—Miss Barbara Louise Wall, daughter of Mrs. Walter E. Wall and the late Mr. Wall, whose engagement to M.T/Sgt. Melvin Lloyd Hickok, USMC, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Hickok of Janesville, Wis., is announced by her mother. The bride-elect is a member of a kamaaina family. No date has been set for the wedding. (Mildred McClurg Studio).

Wall-Hickok Troth Revealed

Mrs. Walter E. Wall announces the engagement of her daughter Barbara Louise, to M. T/Sgt. Melvin Lloyd Hickok, USMC, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Hickok of Janesville, Wis. No date has been set for the wedding.

The bride-elect, daughter of the late Mr. Wall and member of a kamaaina family, was graduated from Roosevelt High school and Margaret Dietz Commercial school. Since war broke out, she has been an instructor in her own dancing school. Her father was surveyor general of the Territory and her grandfather, the late Mr. Charles J. Wall, was architect for the Palace, the Judiciary and other public buildings.

Her fiance attended Milton college in Milton, Wis. and is past master in De Molay Masonic lodge. At present he is at bombardier and gunnery school, in charge of a unit in El Centro, Cal.

Rita Stephenson
ROBINSON AVIATION, INC.

First National Building
Hollywood 28, California



*Sgt. J. B. Thornhill
Squadron H, 421st Base
Army Air Base
Muroc, Calif.*

Vibration Control
Engineers

12-19-44

Hi Darling,
Miss me? You'd better!
Haven't found any
decorations yet - but still
looking.

Haven't thought of any
suitable excuses for our
getting away from the house -
therefore, you'd better think of
something. - ORDERS!!!

Believe it or not, I'm
still in love with you. Odd,
isn't it?

Sent your folks Xmas card
& a package.

Did I tell you about my new
suit???

P.S.

Love you,
X Here's a kiss.
O.K.?

Nina

Nina Stephenson
6777 Hollywood
Hollywood, California
12-19-1944

Hi Darling,

Miss Me? You'd better!

Haven't found any decoration yet – but still looking.

Haven't thought of any suitable excuses for our getting away from the house – therefore you'd better think of something. –ORDERS!!!

Believe it or not, I'm still in love with you. Odd, isn't it?

Sent your folks Xmas card & a package.

Did I tell you about my new suit???

I love you,

Nina

PS X Here's a kiss. OK?